

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06

EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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DRAFTED BY EB/ITP:MWGLITMAN:MEH

APPROVED BY EB:TOENDERS

STR:AMB. EBERLE

S/PRS:AMB. ANDERSON

ARA:WDROGERS

NEA:SSOBER

L/EB:CPITMAN

EA/EP:AGEBER

AF/EPS:RLOMBARDI (INFO)

H:KJENKINS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: APPLICABILITY OF GSP TO OPEC COUNTRIES

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REF: (A) STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT

OF JANUARY 7

(B) JOHN HARTER, USIA, INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR
EBERLE ENTITLED "EBERLE SAYS US TRADE BILL
WILL HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES"

1. WE WISH TO CLARIFY US POSITION ON GSP PROVISIONS OF
TRADE ACT OF 1974, PARTICULARLY THE QUESTION OF THE
APPLICABILITY OF PREFERENCES TO OPEC COUNTRIES. POSTS
SHOULD DRAW ONLY ON PRESIDENT'S JANUARY 3 STATEMENT
(STATE 01804) AND FOLLOWING TO EXPLAIN ADMINISTRATION
POSITION ON GSP AND OPEC COUNTRIES TO HOST GOVERNMENT AND
LOCAL MEDIA.

2. THE ADMINISTRATION VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED THOSE PROVISIONS
PROPOSED BY THE SENATE WHICH MANDATORILY EXCLUDE CERTAIN
CATEGORIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM GSP. PRESIDENT
FORD EXPRESSED HIS REGRET OVER THE RIGIDITY AND UNFAIRNESS
IN THESE PROVISIONS PARTICULARLY AS THEY APPLY TO OIL-
PRODUCING COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS WE ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH

PLANS FOR THE PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION OF GSP. IN THIS
CONNECTION, WE ARE CAREFULLY EXAMINING THE PROVISIONS
RELATING TO OPEC COUNTRIES TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANY
POSSIBILITY OF LEEWAY GIVEN THE RIGIDITIES THE PRESIDENT
NOTED. WE PLAN TO BE IN TOUCH WITH CONGRESS AND WE WILL
SEEK IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION TO WORK OUT ANY NECESSARY
ACCOMMODATIONS.

3. IF ASKED WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO ASK FOR
NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE ARE
AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF THE EFFORTS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

4. FOR JAKARTA AND LAGOS: THE QUESTION OF WHETHER
ADMINISTRATION PROBLEMS WITH OPEC PROVISIONS ALSO RELATE
TO THEIR APPLICABILITY TO NIGERIA AND INDONESIA ALSO
AROSE IN JANUARY 7 PRESS BRIEFING (REF A). YOU MAY NOTE,
IF ASKED, THAT WE RECOGNIZE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE LOW
PER CAPITA INCOMES AND LARGE POPULATIONS AND WE DO NOT
EXCLUDE THESE COUNTRIES FROM OUR CONCERN. KISSINGER
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